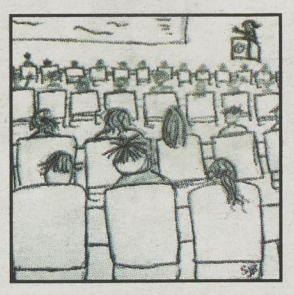
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Vol. LIX, Issue 718 www.Daily49er.com Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Campus pride gets a boost

CSULB sees an increase in its score for friendliness to the LGBT community.

By Scott Bosco
Assistant City Editor

Cal State Long Beach has something to be proud of after scoring four out of five stars on the most recent Campus Pride Index report, despite starting the academic year off with only 2.5 stars.

The report, which measures the university's friendliness to members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, is meant to set standards and advocate for future LGBT and Ally inclusion, according to the Campus Pride Index website.

The score is determined through a survey of 55 questions in eight categories. Once the college or university completes the index, the campus receives a confidential 14-page report with results and recommendations.



Current Campus Pride Index Report

CPIR at start of academic year

Shannon Cholakian, the CSULB assistant secretary of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer affairs, said the university's rating increase is a big deal.

"I am ecstatic over the new score," Cholakian said. "Not only does this mean a better and more accurate reputation for our campus, but it says volumes about the overall position our students and faculty have over making a difference about how we live on campus as a community."

Since receiving the low score of 2.5 stars in August, CSULB has made various policy improvements such as establishing the Committee on LGBTQ Campus Climate and the Safe Zone Training program, Cholakian said.

She added that making the changes helped boost CSULB's score on the index. According to the index's summary, the active campus climate committee and Safe Zone Training Program are "evidence of CSULB's commitment to LGBT issues."

Some members of the LGBT community, such as CSULB Queers & Allies President Daniel Luna, argue that the index is still largely unknown and irrelevant.

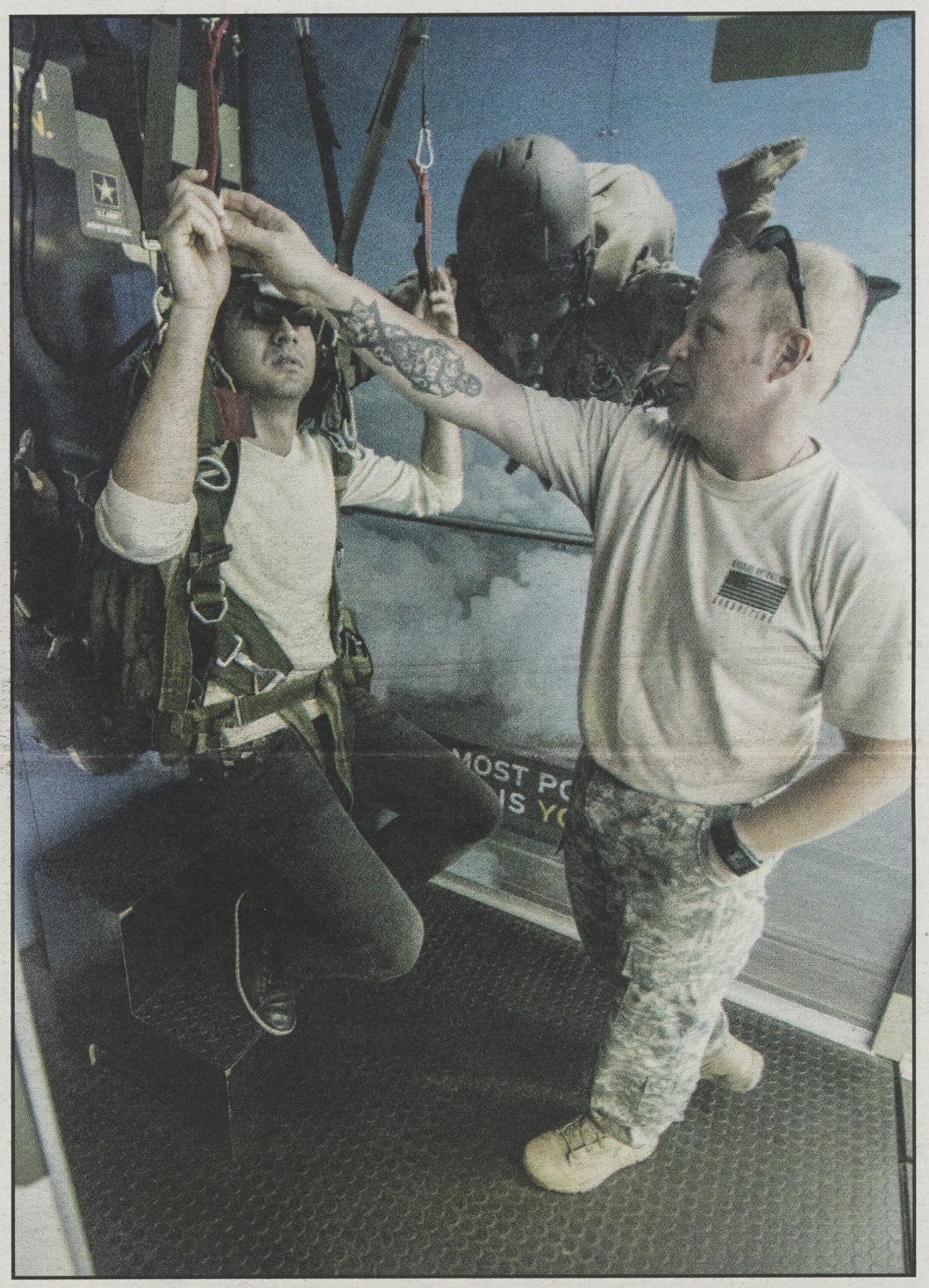
"As far as relevancy and common knowledge goes, I don't think many of the LGBT students are aware of the pride index," Luna said. "But I do believe in some regard it is relevant, especially because we have particular interests and particular needs that you'd like to expect from our campus."

Junior communications major and LGBT student Malik Smith-Thompson said he believes that the growing size and voice of the LGBT community is partially responsible for the score increase.

"Long Beach has a big LGBT community, but it's kind of marginalized on campus," Smith-Thompson said. "The reason why that campus index has changed is [because the] LGBT community has been growing and has definitely put its presence out."

Cholakian said that the improved index score is important to incoming

See **Pride**, Page 2



Sarah Borean | Daily 49er

A visual experience

U.S. Army recruiter helps junior civil engineer major, Ramtin Yousefi, strap into a Halo parachute simulator on Monday in the Army Special Operations Trailer parked in the East Turnaround. Simulators in the trailer use visuals collected by soldiers wearing GoPro cameras during special ops training missions, recruiting officers said.



Sarah Borean | Daily 49er

Ayla Donlin, Director of the LifeFit Center, introduces the RecX card, which participants use to win prizes at the end of wellness week, during PT@The Beach's grand opening Monday.

PT@The Beach officially opens its doors

The new facility offers physical therapy for people of all ages and internships for students.

By Stephanie Romero
Staff Writer

The campus physical therapy practice PT@The Beach celebrated its grand opening Monday with food, drinks and the cutting of a blue ribbon at its door.

The opening welcomed students and faculty to enjoy food and drinks while conversing with PT@The Beach staff.

The clinic, which took nearly two years to establish and has been open since September, provides students, faculty and staff with physical therapy services through faculty from the Department of Physical Therapy.

"This practice provides an academic setting for students in kinesiology and physical therapy," said James Buenaventura, director of PT@The Beach.

Buenaventura, who runs his own private practice in the South Bay, said the new center was made possible with the help of Kay Cerny, chair of the physical therapy department, and Kenneth Millar, dean of College of Health and Human Services.

Millar and Cerny were given the honor of cutting the small blue ribbon in the entryway of the PT clinic prior to opening the facility for everyone to tour.

Unlike its neighbor, the LifeFit Center @ The Beach, PT@The Beach is open to people of all ages. However, Buenaventura said, the clinic's services are limited to those who have movement or functional limitations, such as issues with

See **PT**, Page 2

OLLI explores longevity in Blue Zones

Five elderly panelists share their secrets to health, wellness and a long life.

By Crystal Niebla
Assistant News Editor

Living to 100 years old may depend not on genes but more on one's culture, lifestyle and environment.

The Osher Life Learning Institute explored "Blue Zones," geographic locations scattered around the world where researchers like gerontologist Maria Claver have found that greater numbers of people live longer than the average life expectancy.

The Lori and Donald Brault Successful Aging Lecture, one of the first events of Wellness Week, a week-long series of health-related events, featured five elderly panelists who shared their secrets to health, wellness and longevity with an audience of more than 35 people in the Human Services and Design building Room 101.

Claver, who introduced the Blue Zone concept, said that, in certain locations, she continues to find more "pockets" of people who live to be more than 100. Life expectancy averages at about 78.2 years, Claver said.

Blue zones can be found in Loma Linda, USA; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Sardinia, Italy; Ikaria, Greece and Okinawa, Japan, Claver said.

Through the research she gathered from these locations, Claver said she identified a "Power 9" lifestyle that features healthy eating and a purpose-driven lifestyle that centennials had in common.

Claver said that 75 percent of the way people age depends on how they live.

Scott Mighell, a retired surgeon and panelist, turned 92 this year. He said that he has good genes, given that his maternal uncle lived to be 104, his paternal aunt lived to be 105 and his mother lived to be 95.

Power 9

1. Move Naturally
2. Wake Up with a Purpose
3. Down Shift: Shed Stress
4. Hara Hachi Bui: Eat until you are 80 percent full
5. Plant Slant: More grains, fruits, vegetables than meat
6. Belong to Some Faith-Based Community
7. Loved Ones First
8. Right Tribe — Friends Committed to Each Other

"Besides that, it takes a lot of luck," he said. "Actually, getting across that street safely is luck."

Mighell said that among the classmates he had in a 1945 medical course in college, he said that 21 of the about 48 students are still alive, who he said were all about the same age.

"I think [what] we all had in common was medical knowledge," Mighell said.

Mighell also said he has a brain tumor but that he's not worried about it.

"It's not a dangerous type, so we leave it alone," he said.

Sylvia Manheim, who writes for OLLI's newsletter "The Sun," said she is a "very connected person in many directions" and has involved herself with organizations, activities and family. She is 89.

Manheim said that her reason for living is motivated by "passion" for "peace." She said she was involved in the civil rights movement in the '70s and that she advocated against discrimination against minority children.

She also said a police officer once called her a "n----r-loving communist prostitute" for her involvement in a demonstration.

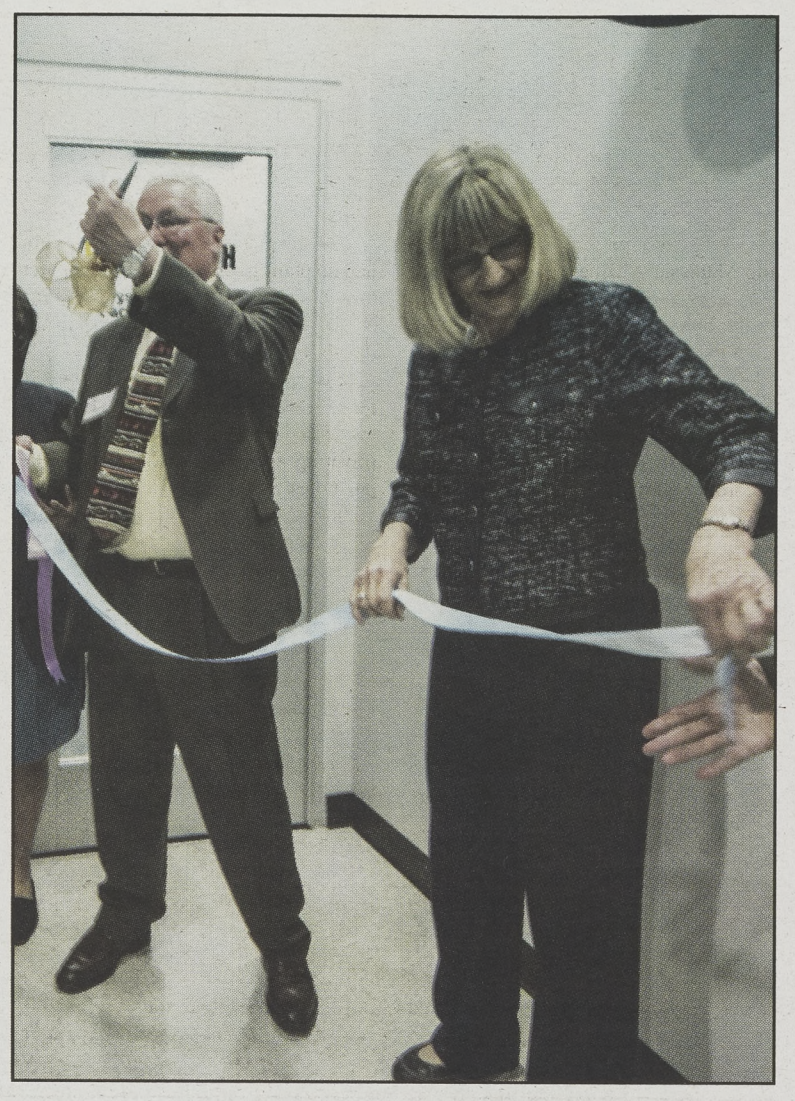
"Thank you for the compliments," she told the officer.

Mary Thoits, a panelist who celebrated her 90th birthday "with a picnic," said that having a passion in life has motivated her to keep living. She is the senior studies manager at Long Beach City College.

"Do you just want to make it for a number?" she said.

Eighty-seven-year-old Long Beach resident Betty Reynolds said that she attended the Blue Zone panel because she believes she's never too old to learn something new.

"Besides," she said, "it's better than sitting on the couch at home."



Sarah Borean | Daily 49er

Dr. Kay Cerny and Dean of College of Health and Human Services Kenneth I. Millar cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the Physical Therapy clinic on Monday in the LifeFit Center in the Kinesiology Building.

PRIDE

Continued from Page 1

LGBT students because it helps to alleviate any fears they may have.

"When I last checked, University of California, Santa Cruz and CSU Fullerton had better scores than Long Beach, and that's something students might take into account," Cholakian said. "Even if they haven't identified as anything yet because they're scared their identity might come out when they don't want it to, just knowing the score ahead of time is very important."

According to the index's summary, CSULB scored its highest marks in both academic and student life, and its poorest in recruitment and retention efforts.

As extensive as the index tries to be, Luna said that he doesn't believe the pride index accounts for the sense of community or the number of organizations at CSULB.

Smith-Thompson said he believes the campus can provide more in resources, especially for the transgender part of the community.

"We definitely need a lot more," Thompson said. "A lot of the people in the position to help haven't gotten the proper training for LGBTQ sensitivity, and the L and the G definitely don't understand the T and the Q."

Cholakian said that CSULB can raise its score higher if the university allocates funding for different resources, such as paid staff with responsibilities for LGBT and Ally support services and LGBT housing options.

PT

Continued from Page 1

walking, going up or down stairs and aches or pain.

Curleen Trotter, a health care administration major and an administrative assistant at the PT center, said that, since its opening, the number of patients seeking treatment has remained relatively consistent at about six to eight per week.

Buenaventura said the center also offers students in the physical therapy doctoral program a new way to study by allowing them to observe faculty, such as Buenaventura, work with patients in the clinic.

Physical therapy doctoral student Sam Hua, who fulfills his class's lab requirements at the center, said it provides real-world experience as well as extra practice.

"This practice teaches us students many things, both in watching and application," Hua said.

The center also allows pre-physical therapy students to work with clinicians as physical therapy aids. Students can also complete internship requirements for graduation, Buenaventura said.

Another physical therapy doctoral student, David Weberg, said he is excited that students can now get valuable hands-on experience on campus through the center.

"The best thing is to know that they offer an internship for the students and being able to sit in the treatments and learn," Weberg said.

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Two ships scour 150-mile path for 'black box' signal from missing Malaysian plane

BEIJING— Investigators began searching underwater Friday for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, with two ships homing in on a 150-mile path in the Indian Ocean where analysts believe the jet probably went down.

A pinger locator lent by the U.S. Navy was being towed by the Australian ship Ocean Shield, trying to pick up signals from the Boeing 777's flight data recorder. A British ship with similar capabilities, the Echo, was also participating. The two vessels were dispatched to converge toward each other along the path more than 1,000 miles off the west coast of Australia.

Angus Houston, who is coordinating the search from the Australian city of Perth, said the path was chosen based on an analysis of six hours of satellite pings transmitted hourly from the plane to a satellite after other communications devices on the jetliner were turned off.

But without speed or altitude data to factor into the calculations, investigators have had to model possible paths for the plane's entry into the water. Flight 370 disappeared 27 days ago en route from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239 people aboard, and Houston conceded that the battery life of the flight data recorder was getting close to expiring. He said investigators had no plans to obtain other pinger locators to add to the search. "These things are in very short supply," he said at a news conference in Perth.

Australian Navy Commodore Peter Leavy, commander of the joint task force 658, said the two ships were traveling at just three knots (3.4 miles per hour) to search at depths of nearly 10,000 feet. At that rate, it would take more than 24 hours for the two ships to cover the 150-mile track.

"The search using subsurface equipment needs to be methodical and carefully executed in order to effectively detect the faint signal of the pinger," Leavy added.

Even if the battery on the flight data recorder expires, Houston noted that investigators could continue their subsurface search. The Ocean Shield, he said, carries an unmanned underwater exploration vehicle that can search the ocean floor for up to 24 hours at a time.

In addition to the Ocean Shield and Echo, seven other ships were participating in Friday's search, along with 10 military planes and four civilian aircraft. Some of those other ships carry helicopters that can help look for surface debris.

"We will continue the surface search for a good deal more time," said Houston, adding that there was a "great possibility" of finding debris.

He emphasized that finding wreckage remained crucial to narrowing down the search area. "The area is vast and remote," he added, comparing it to the size of Ireland. "We have not searched everywhere that the aircraft might have gone."

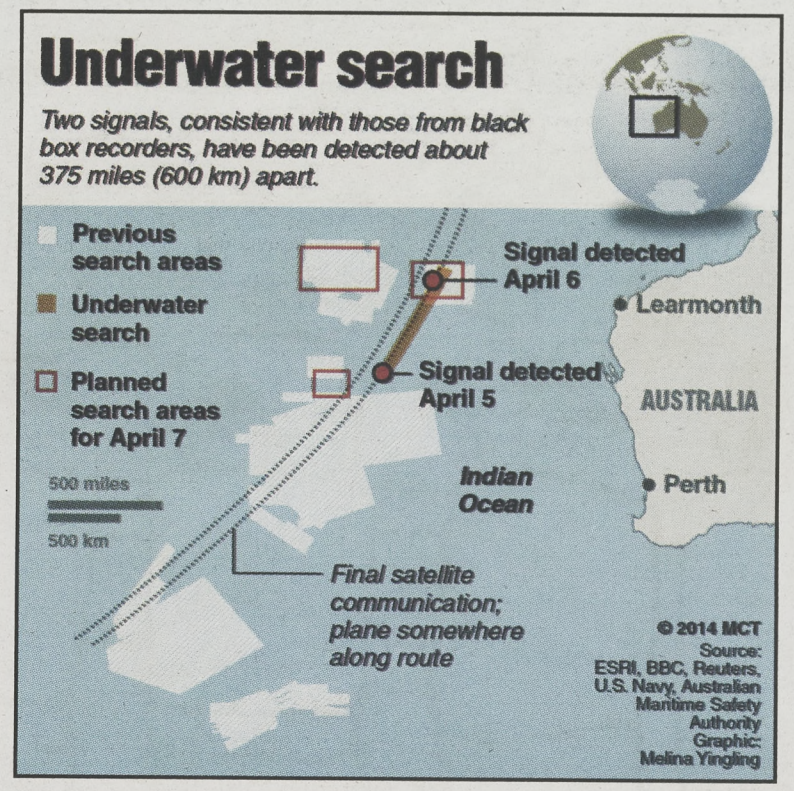
Over the last week, the search area has been gradually nudged further northwest of Perth, and Houston said the zone would continue to be adjusted on a "semi-regular" basis.

Asked about the cost of the search, Houston conceded that "it's a lot of money" but refused to get into specifics. He said Australian and Malaysia officials were working on drafting a "comprehensive agreement" about the search, including how to handle debris and victims if they are eventually found, and other "critical decision points."

In an indication that authorities remain hopeful that the search will locate the plane, Houston said Australian officials were making plans to host relatives of people aboard Flight 370 who are expected to arrive in Perth shortly.

Asked about Malaysia authorities' statement that the plane's disappearance had been categorized as a criminal investigation, Houston said that decision was "not relevant" to the work of the searchers at this time.

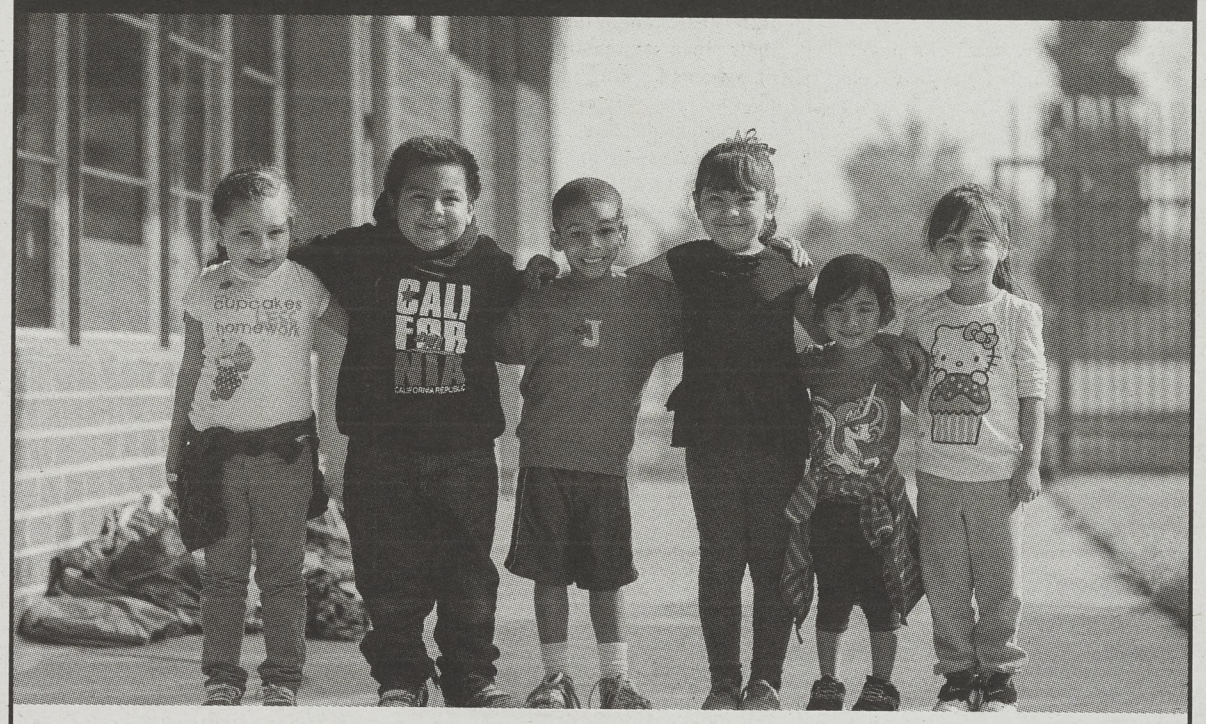
-By Julie Makinen, Los Angeles Times



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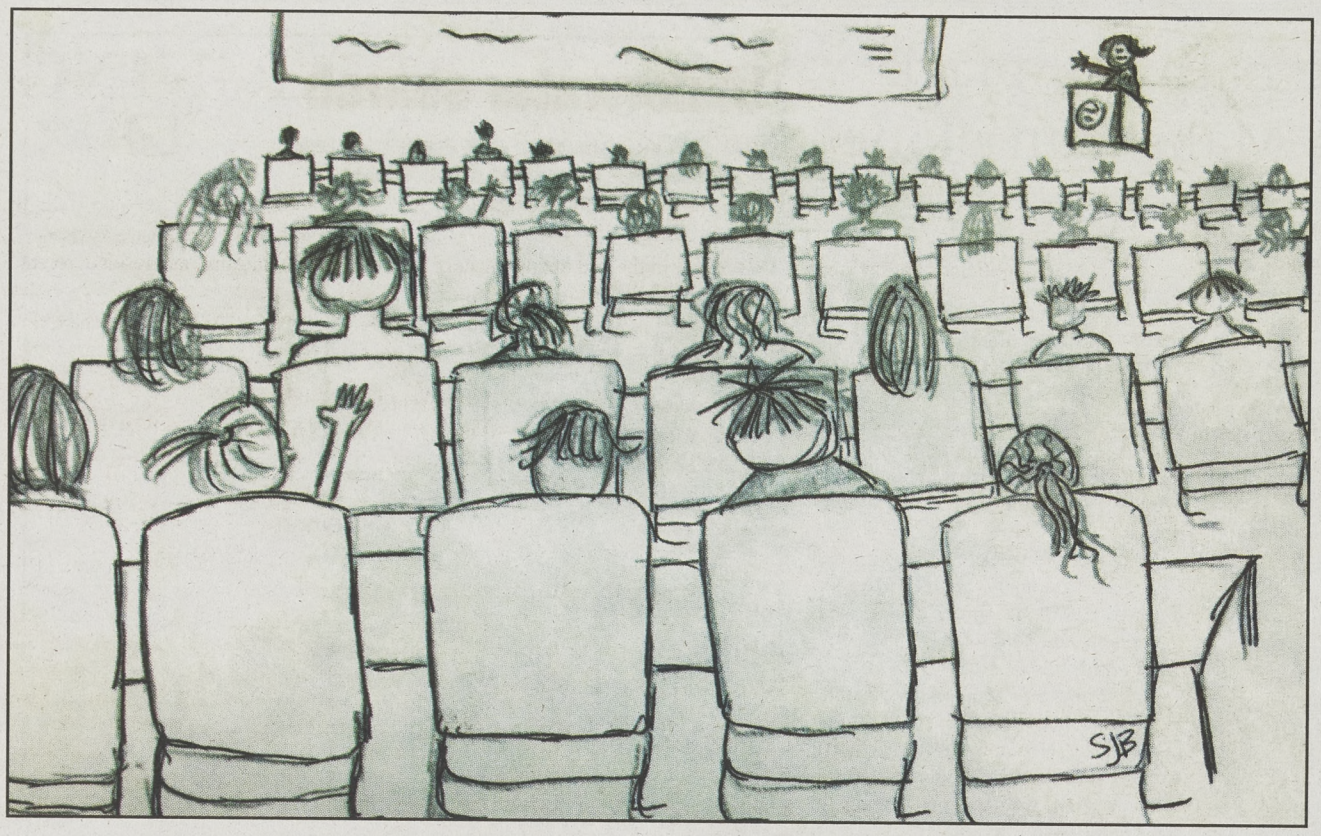
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OUR VIEW:
LETS CAN THE BOTTLENECKS

During the March 26 Cal State University Board of Trustees meeting, the Committee on Educational Policy presented strategies to eliminate bottlenecks throughout the CSU system by 2017. We are concerned, however, that the solutions being discussed may be more harmful than helpful.

Seeing as how many of the impacted, or bottleneck, courses tend to be general education classes, incoming and transfer students face an ugly scramble to register for all of the necessary requirements to stay on the graduation track.

Think of a bottleneck course like an overflowing waterbottle, what spills out are students who are left to dry on the pavement.

Some of the strategies discussed in the BOT meeting included implementing more online courses and hiring additional faculty throughout the system.

However, it seems more likely that offering more online courses could serve as a short-term fix.

What we have experienced here at Cal State Long Beach is that there may be one or two key courses that are prerequisites for upper level classes in our majors.

According to the CSU Bottleneck Survey Report, classes become impacted due to insufficient funding, a lack of qualified staff, time constraints and class room availability, an inability to substitute one class for another, a shortage of seating and too many students retaking a class for a better grade.

The reports shows that 70 percent of CSU students are either enrolled or trying to enroll in impacted classes.

The Board has suggested using the $10 million allocated to the CSU in Gov. Brown's budget plan to increase the number of online classes made available.

This sounds like a great plan but we think that the quality of the education in online courses is not even close to that of the traditional student-teacher classroom environment.

We're also left wondering about why the $10 million will be used to increase online classes when it could be used towards hiring professors for impacted courses.

Although the option for online classes could be great for students with fully booked schedules, there are some subject matters that should stay within a physical classroom setting.

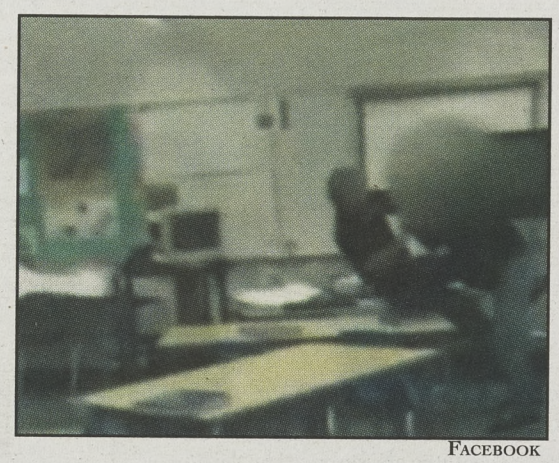
The implimentation of more online classes could work well for reading intensive courses, such as history or English courses.

However, it is dangerous to have a "one size fits all" mentality when it comes to opting for online classes. A professor should physically oversee general education courses such as math or chemistry.

Having a computer screen filled with numbers and formulas sounds like a headache. We can safely assume this doesn't create a conducive learning environment for the student, as well as the professor who will have to guide students through a computer screen.

There are a total of 1,294 classes across the CSU that are bottlenecked, according to the Los Angeles Daily News. Most of the classes impacted are from the science and technology department and 300 level classes.

As of now, we support the attempts made towards resolving the bottleneck situation, we just hope that the CSU focuses on the quality of the students' education rather than pushing them to graduate as quickly as possible.



FACEBOOK

A LITTLE BIT OF RESTRAINT IS NECESSARY

By Paige Pelonis
Assistant Opinions Editor

Weed and the like tend to fill the pockets of a myriad of high school students. But it's not everyday that a teacher asks a student to hand over his or her illegal substance of choice in the middle of a classroom. This did happen, however, last Friday at Santa Monica High School and a video of the events that followed has gone viral.

The video, taken with a cellular phone by another student in the classroom, shows science teacher/wrestling coach "Mr. Black" engaging in a physical altercation with a student. The video ends with Black pinning the student to the ground by holding his legs still.

At first, one might think, 'What? A teacher tackled a student? That teacher should be fired!' And in fact, school officials have said that Black was put on leave after the incident pending an investigation, according to Los Angeles Daily News. Apparently, Black's boss, Superintendent Sandra Lyon, sent a letter home to parents, in which she called the teacher's actions "utterly alarming."

Lyon has since apologized for her initial response to the situation, acknowledging that she may have judged too quickly, according to the Los Angeles Times. On the one hand, it's good that she at least recognized that her words condemned the actions of a teacher who was simply protecting himself and his students from a violent student.

On the other hand, is it enough for her to simply stamp an "I'm sorry" on the situation or can she do more to make up for the mixed message she has sent to students and parents?

If the teacher's actions were in fact "utterly alarming," there wouldn't be such huge student-parent support for Black. Parents and students alike have expressed their outrage with Black's indefinite leave, as they seem to agree that Black did what was necessary to preserve his safety and that of his classroom.

Black's actions were allegedly taken in the name of self-defense. ABC Local interviewed a couple of the students who were in the classroom at the time of the incident, and these students defended Black, claiming that he was restraining their classmate as a result of a drug-related altercation. The voices of the students in the ABC interviews were distorted, at the request of the students, who said they feared gang-related backlash

See **Black**, Page 5

Daily 49er

Daniel Serrano
Editor in Chief
eicd49er@gmail.com
(562) 985-7998

Editorial Office
Phone (562) 985-8000
Fax (562) 985-7994

1250 Bellflower Blvd., SSPA 004B
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

General Manager
Beverly Munson
(562) 985-5736

Advertising Manager
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Business Office
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BLACK

Continued from Page 4

for their statements in defense of their teacher on air.

Students have said that Black was attempting to confiscate the student's stash of cannabis, which prompted the student to stab Black with a pencil, according to the Santa Monica Patch. At that point, Black physically restrained the student. In the cellphone video of the grappling session, student comments imply that they are confused and surprised by the turn of events.

In the candid moments shown in the video, the students in the classroom debate whether or not they should jump in and "help him out," and I think it's fair to assume that the "him" in this case is not their classmate. If Black were randomly attacking a student, I feel that the video would show students rushing to their friend's aid or running into the hall and yelling for help.

But none of that is shown in the video. In fact, as Black pinned the student to the ground, there was actually a light sprinkling of applause from the student bystanders. The Los Angeles Times even reported that over 10,000 people have liked the "We Support Coach Black of Samohi" page on Facebook, and 3,500 signatures fill the **Change.org** petition to reinstate Coach Black.

Though I'm sure it made sense for Lyon to send Black home at the time of the incident, I think disallowing him to return and treating him as if he was at fault is a disservice to the students in his classroom. The message that is being sent is that violent students have the upper hand over the adults who attempt to reprimand or correct them.

COMPLAINING ABOUT CAMPAIGNING

BY NICK CHAVEZ
Assistant Opinions Editor

The Supreme Court made a controversial ruling on April 2 that determined that an individual can make campaign contributions to more than one candidate running for a federal office.

The court ruled 5-4 that people can donate money to multiple candidates based on a citizen's right to free speech, according to an article from the Los Angeles Times. This means that campaign contributions act as a form of speech and that limiting how many candidates a person may contribute to is limiting free speech.

Some Justices feel that there should be no limitations on the amount of money that is contributed.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, arguably the most conservative of all the justices, has written his own opinion. He said that he feels the ruling did not go far enough and that he would have removed all the contribution limitations, according to CBS. Such an extreme attitude can lead to reckless legislation on campaign contributions.

Many politicians are saying that this ruling opens a can of worms for corruption and could lead to the interests of the wealthy drowning out the voices of the people, according to CNN.

Sen. Pat Leahy, D-Vermont, the democratic chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he would hold a hearing to discuss the possible impact of "alarming Supreme Court decisions that have eviscerated our campaign finance laws."

> "It could lead to interpretations of the law that would result in the end of any fairness in the political system as we know it."
>
> — *Sen. Charles Schumer*

Lawmakers have also expressed concern that this ruling might lead to more legislation that could weaken campaign finance laws, which aim to protect the system from corruption.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-New York, stated "It could lead to interpretations of the law that would result in the end of any fairness in the political system as we know it," according to CNN.

Some republicans are uneasy about the ruling, even though it was a republican majority in the Supreme Court that ruled it, according to the LA Times. This is not to say that all republicans share this uncertainty, but some well-known republicans who are supporters of campaign finance reform have openly expressed concerns.

"I am concerned that today's ruling may represent the latest step in an effort by a majority of the court to dismantle entirely the longstanding structure of campaign finance law erected to limit the undue influence of special interests on American politics," said Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, to the Business Insider.

"I predict that, as a result of recent Court decisions, there will be scandals involving corrupt public officials and unlimited, anonymous campaign contributions that will force the system to be reformed once again," McCain said.

The ruling does not change the amount of money that an individual may donate to a candidate. The limit stays at $5,200 for any one candidate per two-year election cycle.

Even then, the donations are further limited to just $2,600 in the general and $2,600 in the primary elections, according to the LA Times. The only difference is that an individual can donate to multiple candidates, so long as only $5,200 is spent.

Despite outcry from both political parties, I feel that politicians and the media exaggerate the reaction to the ruling.

I see this particular ruling as reasonable; however, I agree that this could lead to more dramatic legislation, which could create an imbalance in the system.

As long as the integrity within the legislation isn't compromised and funding is monitored, this ruling shouldn't spin into anything dire.

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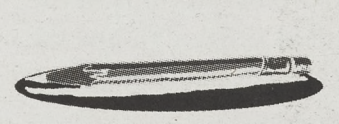
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The future of rock 'n' roll rolls into Long Beach



COURTESY OF GAIL ELIZABETH

David Lee, center, and two of his peers from the Norco Rockstars of Tomorrow headline the grand opening of the new Long Beach location in The Village on Carson Street March 28.

Rockstars of Tomorrow is a one-of-a-kind music academy that not only offers music instruction, but scores gigs for aspiring musicians of all ages.

BY BROOKE BECHER
Contributing Writer

One school of rock has moved on from conjunctions and onto power chords, and now, from Norco to Long Beach.

Carson Street welcomed Rockstars of Tomorrow, a music academy, on March 28 during Fourth Friday in The Village on Carson Street. This location marks Rockstars of Tomorrow's newest franchisee and second location, with the first being in Norco.

The program utilizes a performance-based model, setting their students' eyes on a gig, not a grade. Classes offered include: vocals, guitar, bass, piano, drums, and recording and production, all of which incorporate artist development along the way.

Owners Brad and Stephanie Cummings and their crew look to provide enough theory, tips and tricks to guide their students up the stairway to heaven or commute the highway to hell — whichever tastes are to be suited.

"When I took lessons, there was a fluorescent lamp in a small, old room that looked like a used office and you're trying to read a blues scale out of a book," Brad Cummings said. "There was a huge disconnect to this and what I was doing in the music business."

While he's not working with music students and running the business, Cummings plays in multiple bands, one being a collaboration with Long Beach's Mike Vitale Trio that plays some Saturdays at the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

Inside the ivy-coated walls are multiple themed rooms welcoming anyone "from age 4 to age 104" to unleash, strap-up or pedal-down and have fun. While students of all ages are welcome, Cummings said that they have a passion to teach kids at a young age, and for that reason, much of their marketing material is directed towards kids.

"J AC/DE", as they refer to themselves, is a band comprised of kids from the Norco Rockstars of Tomorrow, all under age 11, according to Cummings. The band of youngsters played at the grand opening of the Long Beach Rockstars of Tomorrow location.

One of the most well-performed kids is David Lee, who started learning guitar with Rockstars of Tomorrow at 6 years old. Two years later and he has multiple shows under his belt.

Rockstars of Tomorrow distinguishes itself by going beyond the instrument to craft its students' confidence into an overall performance persona.

After all, it was persona that inducted Rob Trujillo to eight-figure stardom as Metallica's full-time fourth member. Along with talent, it took true showmanship for Fletcher Dragge to continue with Pennywise, one of the most successful, independent punk acts of this generation or Scott Weiland to rasp out his vocals on internationally successful albums.

These names not only top Billboard charts, but are also artists Cummings has worked with or known personally. Pat Simmons. Rita Coolidge. Earl Liberty. Sting. The list goes on.

"I take pride that every instructor these kids come in to meet [are] working pros," Cummings said. "We're out doing it and when you're ready to play, you can come on one of our gigs and play with us."

Although Rockstars of Tomorrow originally developed as an alternate means to generate income, Cummings said that along the way he realized sometimes giving a kid an outlet is giving him a getaway.

"I grew up in an area where there were a lot of drugs … had it not been for my music and surfing … who knows where I would be today," Cummings said. "It changed the trajectory of my life, and if I can do that for some kids here, there's no better thing."

The one-on-one crash course in Rock 'n' Roll is offered once a week for $150 a month. This rock 'n' roll boot camp covers it all, besides an Axl Rose prevention plan and the sacred rituals of hotel trashing.

While the second business is just starting up, Cummings said that the Rockstars of Tomorrow would love to coordinate a show on the Cal State Long Beach campus in the future.

Rockstars of Tomorrow is located on 5465 Carson St., in the perfect location to play right outside the front door every Fourth Friday in The Village, from 5 to 8 p.m.

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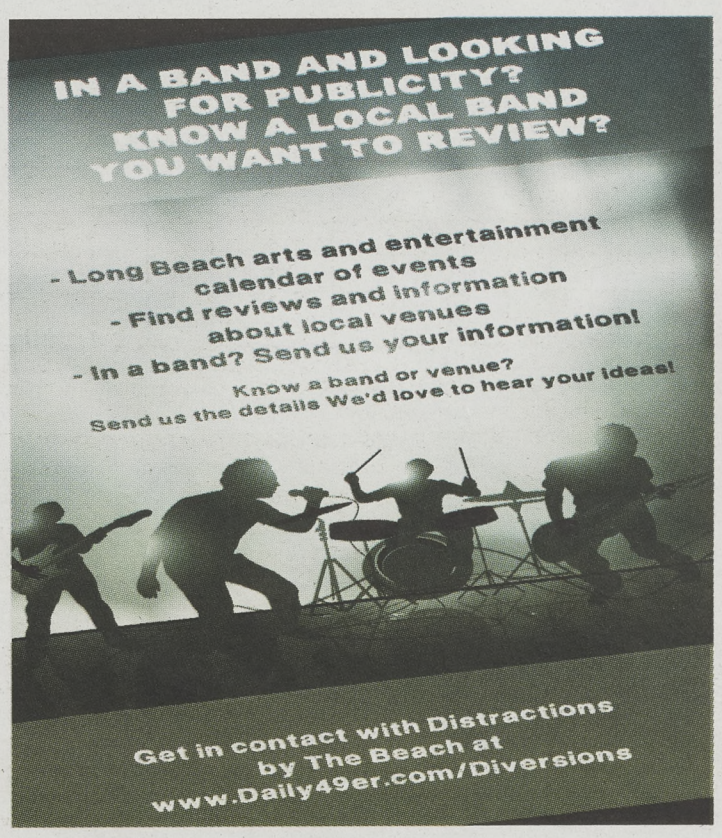
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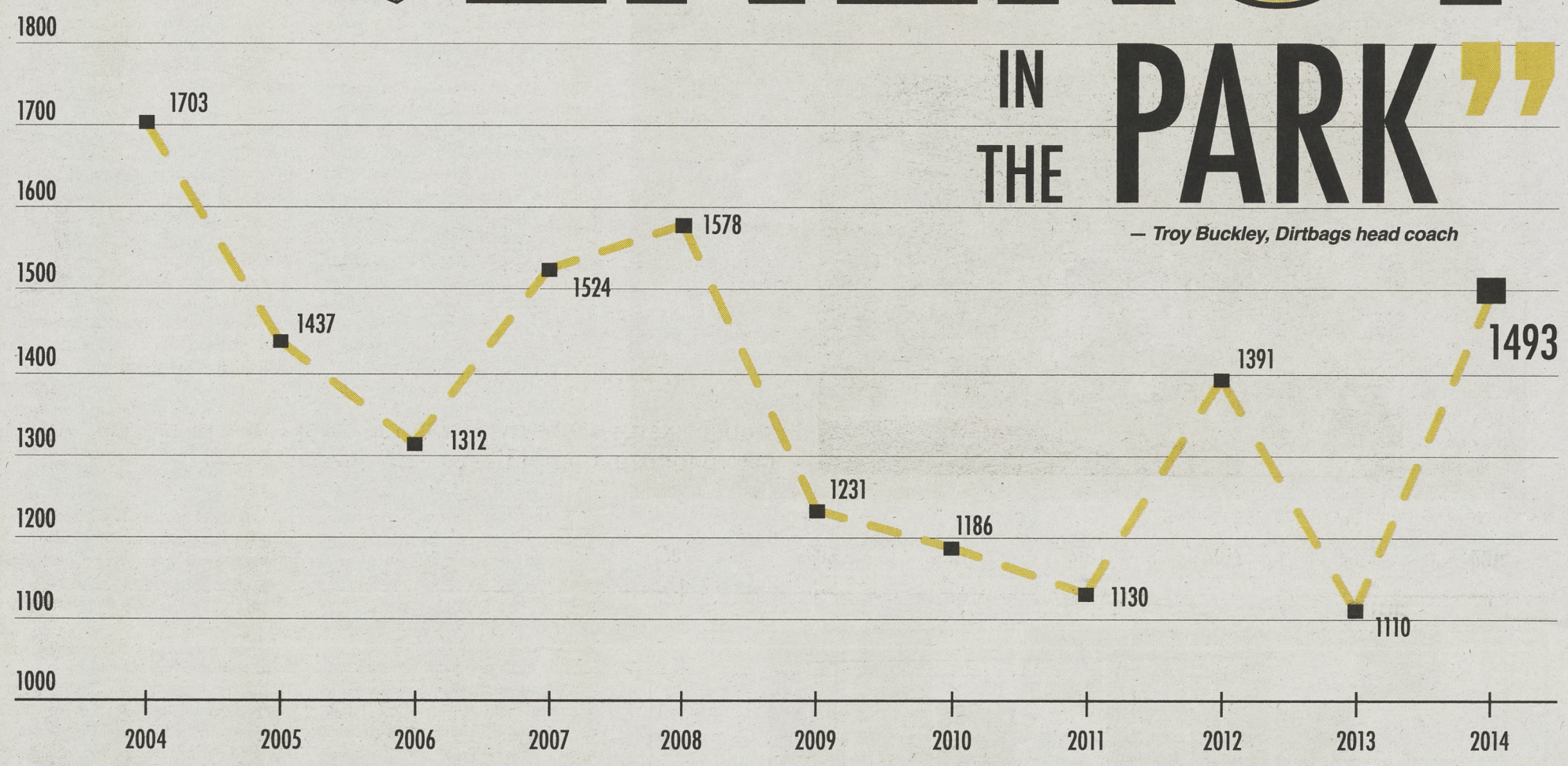
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"THERE'S JUST BETTER ENERGY IN THE PARK"

— *Troy Buckley, Dirtbags head coach*



SOURCE: LBSU ATHLETICS | ILLUSTRATION BY JASON CLARK

The Dirtbags' average attendance has gradually dropped over the last decade, but it is seeing a resurgence this season.

BY JASON CLARK
Sports Editor

The ticket-takers and turnstiles at Blair Field are busier this year than they have been in the recent past.

Nearly 400 more fans are attending Dirtbags games this year in comparison to last, according to data provided by the Long Beach State athletics department. That is a number that is making the bleachers at Blair Field look more like they did when LBSU was fielding future MLB All-Stars Jered Weaver, Evan Longoria and Troy Tulowitzki.

"That used to be the norm," head coach Troy Buckley said. "Attendance in Southern California is always challenging because there are so many options and so many things going on. This is a city that really supports its programs, and if you win, there is a ton of energy there."

34.5
PERCENT
Increase in average game attendance from 2013 to 2014

The average of 1493 fans filling the seats isn't the only attendance number that is looking better for LBSU. The Dirtbags have also seen individual game crowds crack the top 20 all-time at LBSU, the most recent of which came on Sunday. LBSU defeated defending national champion UCLA in front of 2,582 faithful, the 20th-largest attendance the Dirtbags have ever seen at a home game.

The series against the Bruins as a whole also registered healthy attendance numbers, as the two home games combined to bring 4,168 fans to the park, good for 26th all-time for a series.

"Seeing Blair packed is the way we think it always should be," Buckley said. "We have obligations to deliver on our end of the deal and hopefully people will continue to come out because it's been really fun."

Buckley attributed the increase to efforts by the LBSU marketing staff, specifically those of Assistant Director of Marketing Tanya Moran.

"You have to give her credit for her relationships in the city and her getting out there and being creative as far as giveaways and promotions," Buckley said.

Dedan Brozino, Senior Associate Athletics Director of External Relations and Communications at LBSU, said Moran and the marketing staff have worked with partners like the Stramski Center at Miller Children's Hospital and Angels 4 Our Troops.

"Tanya Moran and our marketing crew have worked to best align our program with community partners that have helped us grow the Dirtbags brand in Long Beach," Brozino said.

He added that LBSU's partnership with Angels 4 Our Troops has supported "Salute to the Services Sundays," during which service men and woman are granted free admission.

Another reason for the Dirtbags' increased attendance this season has to do with tough scheduling, Buckley said. While LBSU has always played difficult opponents, many of them local, this year it has had the opportunity to host them.

Several ranked teams have played games at Blair Field this season, including UCLA, Arizona State, Indiana and Vanderbilt. The Dirtbags will continue to host ranked teams during Big West play, as Cal State Fullerton, UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly are all top 25 teams.

"We've played good teams," Buckley said. "When you bring Indiana, Vanderbilt and UCLA, you should have a good turnout because it's good baseball. People enjoy watching good baseball."

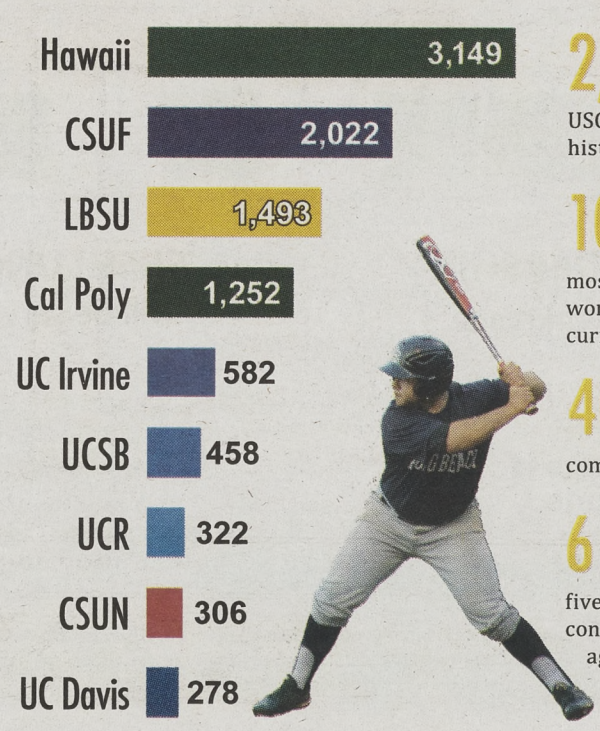
On the field, the Dirtbags have had an up-and-down season, as they currently sit at .500 with a 15-15 record. But with promotions like a Star Wars-themed "May the 4th Be With You" game and an "80's Night" on the horizon, all signs point to the Dirtbags continuing to see those Blair Field bleachers filling up.



Fans cheer during a game against Arizona early last season. Average attendance has risen by 383 fans per game, filling up more of the empty seats seen in the photo to the right.

SHILAH MONTIEL
DAILY 49ER

BIG WEST ATTENDANCE



BY THE NUMBERS

2,697 number of fans in attendance for a Feb. 25 game against USC, the highest in Long Beach State history for a midweek game.

10,770 average game attendance for Louisiana State, most in the country. The Tigers have won 18 straight attendance titles and currently lead by 3,000 per game.

40 Long Beach State's national rank in attendance per game, according to a weekly report compiled by the NCAA.

6 Southeastern Conference teams in the top ten in average attendance, including the enrtire top five. Thirteen of the 14 teams in the conference rank in the top 50 in average attendance, and with good reason: nine SEC teams are ranked in the USA Today Coaches Poll.